

Transition Area Section

Overview

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Overview of Transition-area Section

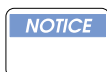
APHIS considers the Transition Area to be between the generally infested area (usually the Regulated Area) and the non-infested area. The generally infested area is characterized by a virtually continuous gypsy moth population that often reaches outbreak levels. The non-infested area lacks an established gypsy moth population. The Transition Area is usually characterized by discontinuous, low-density gypsy moth populations that do not reach outbreak levels.

The purpose of this section is to provide guidelines for APHIS activities in the Transition Area, the area between the generally infested Regulated Area and the non-infested area.

Therefore, this section contains information on the following topics:

- ◆ Background information on the concept of the Transition Area
- ◆ Survey activities in the Transition Area
- ◆ Regulatory activities in the Transition Area
- ◆ Criteria for transferring an area from the Transition Area to the Regulated Area

Previously, APHIS had not attempted to manage gypsy moth populations in the Transition Area. Now, APHIS will support a modified level of survey and appropriate regulatory activities in the Transition Area. Surveys will determine when a county should no longer be listed in the Transition Area but in the generally infested Regulated Area. Regulatory activities will prevent the shipment of infested items from the Transition Area.



The information in this section on the Transition Area applies only to the North American gypsy moth (NAGM) not to the Asian gypsy moth (AGM). For information on the AGM, consult the section on the AGM.

Significance of the Transition Area

Because of natural spread, each area within the Transition Area will probably become generally infested. The rate of natural dispersal has averaged about 13 miles per year. While this rate is a fairly accurate estimation along the entire border of the generally infested area, the rate of dispersal can vary considerably in specific areas.

The policy of APHIS is not to attempt to retard the natural dispersal of the gypsy moth. APHIS considers the Transition Area to be subject to repeated introductions from the generally infested area; therefore, infestations in the Transition Area are not usually considered isolated infestations. As a consequence, APHIS will not try to eradicate most gypsy moth infestations in the Transition Area.

APHIS will monitor the Transition Area by conducting surveys. The results of the surveys will determine when specific areas in the Transition Area become generally infested. At that time, these specific generally infested areas will become part of the Regulated Area.

Generally, political divisions, such as counties, are used to define the Transition Area. The Transition Area usually extends approximately 50 miles beyond the border of the generally infested regulated area. However, the Transition Area may vary from 25 to 75 miles depending on the borders of the political divisions.

Beyond the regulated area and Transition Area, APHIS will continue to conduct detection surveys to find isolated infestations that will be eradicated.